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CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

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I couldn't believe you are intending to use new dams as part of your water plan. They are even less cost effective now than they were years ago. All of the best sites have been used and we now have more efficient ways of saving and using water than before. Nor can water be stored in surface reservoirs for a decade, which is the approximate interval between heavy rain years.

Using flood plains for recharge of ground water is much more effective and cheaper than dams. Buying strategic land for flooding dispersion is usually cheaper than paying for levees and flood damage repairs. Some of this land could be leased for farming. In flood years the leasee wouldn't have to pay, if his crop was lost. Alternatively, such land could be set up as an easement with the owner of the land losing an occasional crop for a financial consideration.

Soon the US will have to face up to becoming efficient. We waste far too much water, among other things. Efficient use of water is basic to any plan. We are now behind many other countries in saving water.

Watersheds aren't being taken seriously enough. Many of them need restoration, because of reckless logging and development. Overgrazing is still a problem also.

Sincerely,

Robert Schmelzer